Holy Shrine

of

Hazret Mevlana Mohammad Jalaluddin Rumi (R.A)

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in

International Rumi Conference

held in University of Sargodha in March, 2008

بسم الله الرحمن الرحیم

الحمد لله الذی نور قلوب اولیائه بانوار المعانی والبیان واجری

من فیض فضله علی لسان الانسان ینابیع الحکمة والتبیان والصلاة

والسلام علی خیر خلقه وعلی آله واصحابه اجمعین

آرزو دارم کہ یک بارِ دگر در قونیہ

سر نہم بر آستان آسمان مولائے روم

ALLAH TABARAK WA TAALAH narrates in Surah-al-Baraqarah, verses 152, فاذ کرونی اذ کرکم "Remember me, I will remember you" Sheikh Mehmood Arab narrates in his **"Manaqib-ul-Aarifeen"** that Hazrat Maulana Jalal-ud-Din Rumi used to lay his head on the wall of his madrasah and invoke the blessed name of Allah tabarak wa taalah so loudly that the sound of "Allah-Allah seattered all around the earth as well as the heaven. The remembrance of Allah tabarak wa taalah in loud as well as silent manner so much prevailed in his life that according to the promise made in the above mentioned ayah, Allah almighty has drawn the attention of entire world towards Maulana Rum. Even after the expiry of 800 years, the remembrance of Hazrat Maulana is increasing day by day. The year 2007 was declared by UNESCO as the centenary year of Maulana with reference to his 800th birth anniversary. In this year, a large number of Conferences, Seminars, the functions of Masnavi Khawani and Raqs-e-Rumi have been held and are still being held in his memory not only in the Islamic world but also in Europe and America. Besides this, voluminous literature on his life and works have been published in the different languages throughout the world. By announcement of a conference in this respect, the University of Sargodha has also taken an admirable step.

Hazrat Maulana Rumi opted Konya Sharif as his eternal resting place, which is located at a distance of 665 kilometers from Istanbul. The virutes of Konya sharif can be imagined from the fact that we call it the "City of Saints". The friends of Allah will always emerge in this city and enemies of Islam will never be in a position to assault this city. It will be exempted from natural disasters appearing prior to the last days of this world and it will never be fully destroyed. With the blessings of Allah Almighty, I have been privileged to pay visits to the shrine of Mevlana Rumi in the years 1995, 2004 and 2007. Three persian verses are reproduced below in this connection:-

رفتہ ام من سوی خاک قونیہ　دیدہ ام من روح پاک قونیہ

دل سپردم در طریق مولوی　مثنوی را گشتہ شاہ مولوی

افتخار قادری باشد فقیر　گلشن پاک محبت را امیر

The holy shirne of Mevlana Rumi exists in the shape of a museum. After the fall of ottoman empire in 1926, this great place was converted into a museum and introduced as Konya Museum of historical works. In 1954, the name was changed to Mevlana Museum. It is spread over an area of 18,000 square meters, which comprises of shrine of Hazret Mevlana, mosque, rooms for dervishes, library, sacred items of Mevlana, harmony hall, lawns, garden and offices. Mevlana Museum remains open for the visitors daily from 9 am to 6 pm without a break. One notices at the main entrance of museum on top of the door the words **"Ya Hazret Mevlana"** and beneath that the following verses of Hazret Mevlana Abdul Rehman Jami call for thought provoking attention:-

کعبہ العشاق باشد این مقام

ہر کہ ناقص آمد این جاشد تمام

There is a room on left side immediately after entering the shrine and before resting place of Hazret Mevlana Rumi, which is called Recitation Chamber. Prior to 1926, there used to be recitation of HOLY QURAN but after conversion to museum, this place has been dedicated to exhibit pieces of calligraphy. After passing through the silver gate of this room, there is a beautiful long hall of the shrine of Hazret Mevlana Rumi. There are three domes over this hall and on a raised platform, Hazret Mevlana and his son Hazret Sultan Valed are resting beneath a green dome. On this platform are located 60 holy graves comprising of family members of Hazret Mevlana, his relatives, successors, deputies and great personalities related to Maulvi order.

The dazzling shrine of Hazret Mevlana Jalaluddin Rumi exhibits a unique model of architecture. The physical grace and splendid brilliance creates surroundings enriched with blessings. Why it should not be there as Allah on a number of times had sparked the luster on him. Hazret Mevlana Rumi had stated that Allah only once said that Kaaba is mine whereas he said seventy times that you are mine:-

کعبہ را یک بار بیتی گفت یار

گفت یا عبدی مرا ہفتاد بار

The shrine of Hazret Hassam-ud-Din Chelabi is also on this holy platform. Mevlana Rumi on the death of Sheikh Salahuddin Zarkoub elevated this beloved personality as his companion and confident associate and upon his request, Mevlana commenced revelation of Masnavi. There are six parts of sacred Masnavi, of which five starts with opening remarks on Hassam-Uddin Chelabi. Fifth part of Masnavi starts with the following beautiful versus:-

شہ حسام الدین کہ نور انجم است

طالب آغاز سفر پنجم است

Hazrat Mevlana in his life nominated Hassam-ud-Din Chelabi as his successor and khalipha. He served as spiritual superior of the shrine for eleven years. The holy graves of father of Hazret Mevlana and of Sheikh Salahuddin Zarkoub are also on this sacred platform. The brief introduction of Sheikh Salahuddin Zarkoub is that he is spiritual brother of Hazrat Mevlana Rumi. Hazret Syed Bahauddin Muhaqqaq Tirmizi, first teacher and spiritual guide of Mevlana Rumi, narrates that he gained two great things from the father of Mevlana Rumi and those were knowledge and spiritual ecstasy. He has transferred knowledge to Mevlana Rumi but has transferred spiritual ecstasy to Salahuddin Zarkoub, therefore, Mevlana Rumi always glorified Salahuddin Zarkoub. Mevlana Rumi narrated a number of verses in the honour of Sheikh Salahuddin Zarkoub. For spiritual blessings, a verse is narrated below:-

اے ز هجران در فراقت آسمان بگریسته

دل میان خون نشته عقل و جان بگریسته

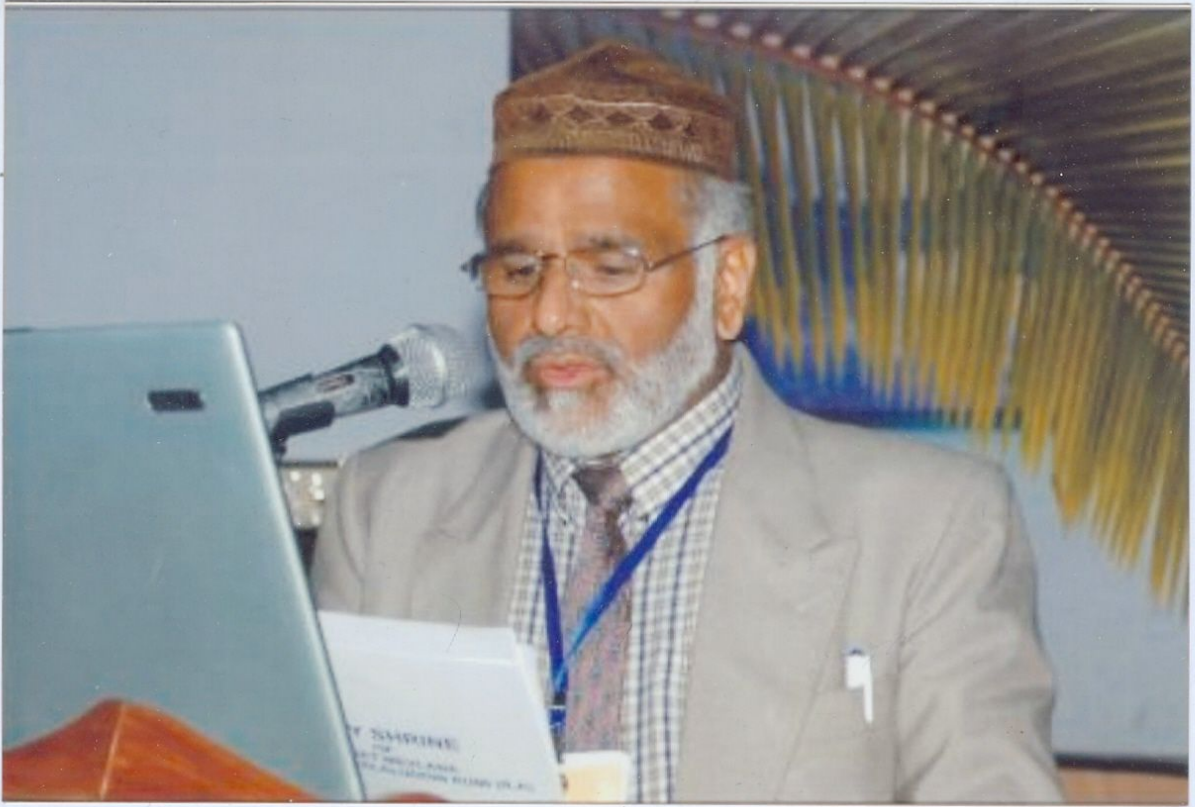
On his death, tears dropped from skies, and hearts were bleeding with soul and thoughts.

Next to this platform is the harmony hall, which had been used for spiritual hearings till 1926 and now dedicated to exhibit sacred usables and compilations of Hazret Mevlana. In this hall, amongst a number of preserved sacred and holy belongings, the most sacred are holy hairs of Prophet Muhammad (Peace and Blessings be upon Him and his descendants), which have been secured in a beautiful wooden box.

A glass cupboard is used to preserve blessed belongings of Mevlana Rumi, which include dress, praying mat, scarf, caps, and coat. Another cupboard has been used to preserve musical instruments.

A part of garden adjacent to the shrine comprises of an extensive library and it also has a symbolic grave of poet of east Allama Iqbal, considered Mevlana Rumi as his spiritual superior. Other prominent spiritual shrines of Konya Sharif include shrine of Hazrat Shamsuddin Tabrezi, Hazret Sheikh Sadr-ud-Din Qunwi, Atish Baz Wali, who was incharge of sacred meals service in the lodge of Hazrat Mevlana. The mosques of Konya Sharif are worth visiting. Close to the museum of Hazret Mevlana Rumi is a big graveyard, where great followers of Maulvi order are resting. Even today people wish that they will be blessed, if they get buried in graveyard close to Mevlana Rumi.

CLOSING REMARKS

Hazret Maulana Rum used to say that if someone wants to save himself from worries and difficulties, he must remain busy in Zikr and award-u-wazaif. If he connot act in this manner, he cannot prevent him from worries.

رفیق احمد قادری زرعی انٹرنیشنل کانفرنس میں اپنا مقالہ پڑھ رہے ہیں۔

رفیق احمد حافظ قادری یونیورسٹی آف سرگودھا کی طرف سے شیلڈ
کا تحفہ وصول کر رہے ہیں۔